

An Additional New Member of the *Phasis wallengrenii* (Trimen) Group (Lepidoptera : Lycaenidae)

By C. G. C. DICKSON

It has been found, when studying a good series of specimens, that the insect concerned differs from both *Phasis argyroplaga* (described by the present writer in *Entomologist's Record*, 79: pp. 267-270, Pl. XI, 15th Nov., 1967) and from *Ph. macmasteri* (*Idem*, 80: pp. 89-92, Pl. V, 15th April, 1968); and the butterfly is being treated hereunder as another easily, recognised, race of *argyroplaga*. Apart from other features, the form of the silvery-white markings of the underside of the hindwing indicates the affinity to this insect rather than to *macmasteri*.

Phasis argyroplaga wykehami subsp. nov.

Male.

Forewing with the distal margin from below vein 4 less concave (in some cases practically straight) and angle formed by distal—and inner—margins of hindwing a little wider than in nominate race of *argyroplaga*—the wing-shape thus having some resemblance to that of *macmasteri*.

Upperside.

Forewing. The orange area as a whole narrower than in *argyroplaga*.

Hindwing. In distinct contrast to the nominate race, the only clear orange marking of the wing is in the form of a wedge from vein 4 to the anal-angle (crossed, but not in all specimens distinctly so, by dark veining), the main area of the wing being dark, but with very dull orange scaling over a good deal of the inner half.

Underside.

Forewing. The larger silvery-white markings towards the apex a little smaller on an average than in the nominate race; the submarginal black streak broken into separate spots. Inner-marginal whitish area rather wider than in the nominate race.

Hindwing. Ground-colour of a less uniform dark tone than in nominate race of *argyroplaga* and partially streaked with brownish-ochreous. The silvery-white markings not infrequently smaller (in some specimens appreciably reduced) than in examples of the nominate race in which they have reached their full development—but, when this occurs, any reduction in size not in the direction of the largely thin, attenuated type of marking found in *wallengrenii*.

Length of forewing: 15.5-17.25 mm. (17.25 mm., in holotype).

Female.

As would be expected, the females differ less from one another than do the males of the two races.

Upperside.

Inner half of wings of a duller coloration than in most examples of the nominate race—more generally so with respect to the hindwings.

Underside.

Forewing. Subapical brownish area always reduced, and less extensive than in the majority of specimens of the nominate race. The sub-marginal black streak relatively narrow in all specimens and broken up into separate spots as in the male.

Hindwing. More streaked with brownish-ochreous than in nominate females.

Length of forewing: 15.5-17.25 mm. (17.25 mm., in holotype).

♂ Holotype, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Summit of Nieuwveld Mtns. (6,000'), nr. Beaufort West, 16.xii.1958 (C. W. Wykeham); British Museum Reg. No. Rh. H.T. 17143.

♀ Allotype, data as holotype; British Museum Reg. No. Rh. H.T. 17144.

Paratypes in the author's collection, W. CAPE PROVINCE: Head of Verlaten Kloof (5,020'), S. of Sutherland, 20.xii.1957, 1 ♂ (C.G.C.D.); as holotype, 1 ♀ (C.W.W.).

Paratypes in Coll. C. W. Wykeham, as holotype, 3 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀; Head of Verlaten Kloof, 20.xii.1957, 1 ♀ (C.W.W.).

This butterfly was encountered in numbers on an open, stony slope just short of one of the summits of the Nieuwveld Mountains, when the locality was being searched, in company with my nephew, on a warm mid-summer's day in 1958. When disturbed specimens rose from the ground and flew fast and irregularly for short distances before settling, abruptly, usually close to where they were first seen. With their wings closed in characteristic manner, they were inconspicuous against the background of soil and small stones. The pair from Verlaten Kloof were met with a year earlier in country of similar type. These two specimens, from 110 miles W. of the 1958 locality, clearly belong to the same race as the main series, and there is a continuous stretch of high ground between the respective localities.

"Blencathra," Cambridge Avenue, St. Michael's Estate, Cape Town.

Berberia abdelkader Pierret and other Butterflies in Morocco, May 1969

By C. G. M. DE WORMS, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.E.S.

I spent the last few days of my first trip to Morocco, in early May 1965, in the Ifran-Azrou region of the Middle Atlas, in company with Gen. Sir George and Lady Ida Johnson (*Ent. Rec.*, **77**: 177). This area seemed so attractive and so rich in lepidoptera, that I decided to return possibly later in the season, to obtain some of the species which appeared after those already observed there. The opportunity presented itself this spring (1969) for a return visit to this delightful country.

Accordingly I set out on the afternoon of May 15th from London Airport, reaching Gibraltar that evening. Here, I spent the night at the very well-known and comfortable Rock Hotel, and was greeted the following morning by a cloudless sky and glorious day. After arranging to hire a Ford Escort, I had a walk in the Almeda Gardens, in the hope of seeing the Gibraltar Burnet (*Zygaena gibraltica*) but none were forthcoming. However, the road behind the Rock Hotel provided a number of butterflies, including *Gonepteryx cleopatra* L., *Euchloë ausonia* Hübn., *Pararge aegeria* L., *Colias croceus* Fourc. and *Lampides baeticus* L. That evening, I crossed in the ferry to Tangier where I joined Mr and Mrs H. G. Allcard at the very sumptuous El Minzah Hotel. They had just returned from Meknes, and had done two excursions from there to Ifran where, I learnt, the season was a very late one as in most parts of Europe, and that the early spring species were